



Annual Pow-Wow and Rodeo  
July 7-10, 2011

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# CHIEF’S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Greetings Tribal Members,  
The month of July has always been very busy for our tribe with our annual Sac & Fox Nation Celebration held on the second weekend (7th, 8th, 9th, 10th) with our annual pow-wow, rodeo, JOM fun day, health fair, veteran’s meal, parade, etc. and the reunion of relatives at campsites. Add the 4th of July holiday, Informational Meeting at the end of the month (30th), and this year the Primary Election (23rd) of three positions on the Business Committee: Principal Chief, Second Chief, and Committeeman. It definitely will be a month to be remembered for the rest of the year!



Chief George Thurman

I now address the tribal elections by encouraging the largest turnout of voters for any election. Please take the time to go to the polls if you did not request an absentee ballot! As citizens of our Nation you have the privilege to determine what leaders will represent your interests. I have heard the saying, “Don’t complain about who the leaders are because you had a chance to vote!” I have also seen positions decided by just one vote, so, yes, your vote does count and does allow you the opportunity to be a part of your tribal decision making. The Primary Election has been set for Saturday, JULY 23rd and the polling sites are: Shawnee – Multi-purpose Building, Stroud – tribal Library, and Cushing – First Indian Baptist Church. Polls will be open from: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The General Election date is August 27th.

INDIAN COUNTRY NEWS  
National Congress of American Indians Adopts

## Resolution Supporting Bill to Cap Cobell Attorneys’ Fees

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) adopted a resolution supporting H.R. 887, legislation by Indian and Alaskan Native Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Don Young (AK-At Large) and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) to cap attorney fees in the Cobell v. Salazar Settlement Agreement at \$50 million. At a conference on May 16-19th, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (AFNI) adopted a similar resolution supporting H.R. 887.

The \$3.4 billion Settlement Agreement, enacted into law last December, included an agreement, signed by the plaintiffs’ attorneys and the government, that set attorneys fees between \$50 million and \$99.9 million. However, plaintiffs’ attorneys filed a petition in U.S. District Court seeking \$223 million pursuant to a previously unknown contingency fee agreement for which the complete, exact details are still undisclosed. The plaintiffs’ attorneys, who had previously told Congress they would not seek fees over \$100 million, did not reveal this secret agreement until after Congress passed settlement legislation.

Chairman Hastings repeatedly sought details of the contingency fee agreements and documents relating to costs and expenses billed to the class. After over a year he had to subpoena the records.

The NCAI Resolution states: “the revelation of the contingency fee, and the \$223 million in attorneys’ fees sought by the Cobell attorneys, is considered outrageous by many in Indian Country and as a breach of their fiduciary duty to the class by putting their own interests ahead of the class, and has resulted in intense bipartisan scrutiny and criticism.”

“My number one concern has always been the fair treatment of the 500,000 individuals in Indian Country and ensuring that they – not trial lawyers – receive the money they deserve. The support given to H.R. 887 by the NCAI and AFNI is welcome and will have a meaningful impact,” said Chairman Hastings.

## News Release – Office of the Secretary - US Dept. of the Interior - Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk Charts Balanced Course for Off-Reservation Gaming Policy; Rescinds Guidance Memo

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk affirmed that the Department of the Interior will continue to pursue a balanced course on off-reservation gaming policy, taking into account the views and concerns of tribes, Federal, State and local elected officials and affected citizens. Echo Hawk spoke at a gathering of the National Congress of American Indians in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Echo Hawk announced that on June 13, following extensive tribal consultations, he rescinded an 2008 memorandum that provided guidance on acquiring land in trust for gaming. Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk confirmed that the Department will move forward to process pending off-reservation gaming applications pursuant to current federal law and the Department’s existing regulations, which set forth a number of criteria that must be met before off-reservation gaming can be approved.

On June 18, 2010, Secretary Salazar issued a memorandum to Echo Hawk recommending that he undertake a thorough review of issues, guidance, and regulatory standards relating to off-reservation gaming, and in consultation with tribal leaders.

The Assistant Secretary held six consultation sessions with tribal leaders from around the United States, from September through December 2010. The Department received hundreds written and oral comments from tribal leaders on the off reservation gaming policy. Following the consultation sessions, Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk conducted a thorough review of the comments received, as well as of existing policies and regulations.

In his June 13th memorandum, the Assistant Secretary stated, “I find that the Department’s regulations governing off-reservation gaming acquisitions adequately provide standards for evaluating such acquisitions and, consequently, that the 2008 Guidance Memorandum’s interpretation of our fee-to-trust regulations is unnecessary.” Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and the Department’s existing regulations, Indian tribes must satisfy three independent and distinct requirements in order to operate an off-reservation gaming facility.

One requirement is the tribe generally must have land acquired in trust by the Department for the benefit of the tribe. In addition, the tribe must receive a positive determination from the Department that off-reservation gaming is in the best interest of the tribe and is not detrimental to the surrounding community. The tribe also must have the concurrence from the Governor of the state in which the gaming

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New Princesses; (L to R) Kilee Jones, Little Miss; Santana Spang, Jr. Miss and Lyndee McClellan, Sr. Miss (staff photo)

# New Sac and Fox Nation Princesses Crowned

Sac and Fox Nation Senior Princess Lyndee Jon McClellan is 18 years old and a 2011 graduate from Norman North High School. “I am very pleased and honored to have been selected as your 2011-2012 Sac and Fox Tribal Princess, I look forward to representing the Nation, to meeting new people, and getting to know other tribal members”, Lyndee said.

Lyndee Jon is the granddaughter of the late John J. (Sac and Fox/Creek) and Clarabell McClellan (Seneca/Creek), and the late Lindy (Kiowa) and Etta Tofpi (Northern Ute), and the daughter of Cheryl McClellan and DeWayne Tofpi.

Lyndee was a gymnast for 14 years of her life. She was the All-Around State Champion for Levels 4, 5, and 6. She completed her gymnastics career as an “elite” gymnast at Bart Connors Gymnastics Academy as the #2 All-Around Gymnast in the State of Oklahoma, Level 7. Lyndee has been a Hoop Dancer since the age of five. She also played soccer at Norman North for two years. Lyndee was “Meredith” in the movie series “Into the West”, produced by Turner Network, starring Wes Studi and Keith Carradine. She recently applied

and received Congressional Nomination to the Air Force Academy. Traditionally, Lyndee has learned the culture and spiritual ways of her Native American people. When she was two years old, she was brought into the “arena” as a Buckskin dancer ‘under the pavilion’ at Stroud powwow by her grandpas, John J. McClellan and Ronny Harris. She now dances Northern Traditional as well as ‘scrub’, ‘jingle’ and fancy shawl. Lyndee loves to sing at the drum including traditional songs, powwow, and Native American Church.

Santana June Spang (Ki-Tha-Kwa), Sac and Fox Nation Junior Princess is the 14 year old daughter of Carrie and Sam Spang. Her grandparents are Harriet Hunter, Jan Stevens and Ray Spang. Great-grandparents are Doris and Harrison Hunter and June and Marvin Stevens.

Santana is an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation and also of Kickapoo, Otoe and Northern Cheyenne descent. She will be a freshman at Stroud High School this fall.

Kilee Jones (Eeshiekethanoquah), Little Miss Sac and Fox Princess, is

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# Second Chief Cheryl McClellan’s Input

Each year Congress passes legislation which, when signed by the US President, appropriates funds for each of the Departments and related agencies. Per our treaties, the US has a trust responsibility to provide a variety of services to Indian people based on our status as Indians, including health care. As a sovereign Nation, the Sac and Fox Nation (SFN) has a right and responsibility to ensure our needs and concerns are heard at the Federal level. As Liaison to Health, Housing, and Transportation, I have focused my time to the Federal issues that may adversely impact the funding source to the SFN. With today’s economy, today’s funding discussions are focused on maintaining previous years’ funding amount without any reductions. As a Self-Governance

tribe, the SFN receives our ‘share’ and we manage the monies ourselves. By listening to your issues and concerns, I have been able to provide input to the OK and Federal level.

## Health

I was appointed to the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB) which represents 41 federally recognized tribes located in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. I was then appointed as one of the representatives to work on the national health budget for fiscal year 2013. The health priorities of BHHC and the Shawnee service area do not differ from the national priorities. In March 2012, you will have an opportunity to provide input to the 2014 health priorities.

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The Stroud Chamber of Commerce recently presented the Sac and Fox Nation “Business of the Month Award” for July 2011. (L to R) Rick Craig, Stroud Chamber; Mike Harris, Stroud Chamber and RAP Dept. Sac and Fox Nation; Stella Nullake, Sac and Fox Nation Committee Member; Randle Carter, Sac and Fox Nation Treasurer; Jacklyn Williams, Sac and Fox Nation Secretary; George Thurman, Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation; Tommy Smith, Stroud Chamber President.

